

The provinces had been invited to make proposals of their own. At the opening meeting certain of the provinces submitted proposals, other provinces made informal statements. It was felt by the provinces that time would be required to study the Dominion proposals, to prepare comments and to suggest modifications, or, as they were invited to do, to make alternative proposals. To facilitate these ends, a Co-ordinating Committee was established, consisting of the premiers of the nine provinces, three Dominion ministers, and the Prime Minister of Canada. As stated in the report of the Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee, which was read this morning, the Committee has met from time to time. At the suggestion of some of the premiers, and with the approval of all, its meetings were held in camera. *all formal submissions made by the provinces to the Co-ordinating Committee have, however, been made public.* I should like to make it perfectly clear that holding the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee in camera was in no way due to a desire on the part of any of its members to conceal from the public matters which necessarily were of vital concern to the people of Canada as a whole. It was solely for the purpose of